REMARKS

The present application was filed on February 21, 2002 with claims 1 through 19. Claims 1 through 19 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application. Claim 1 is proposed to be amended herein.

5   In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Abecassis (United States Patent Number 6,408,128).

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the claim language.

Certified Copy of Japanese Patent Application

The Examiner notes that Applicant has not filed a certified copy of 10   Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-58807 as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Applicants have submitted a request for a certified copy of Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-58807 and will forward the certified copy to the Examiner upon receipt of same.

Independent Claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 14 and 18

15   Independent claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 14 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Abecassis. Regarding claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Abecassis teaches wherein the digest server converts the meta data into characteristic values (col 19, lines 35-55), wherein the digest server calculates an importance level for each of a plurality of content segments (col. 56, lines 49-54). Regarding claim 18, the 20   Examiner asserts that Abecassis discloses a video digest (col. 21, lines 32-45; col. 57, lines 7-24).

Applicants note that Abecassis teaches that,

> to provide intelligence to the dropping of segments, a video
> map could, for example, additionally provide information which may be
25   utilized to assess the relative importance of segments, e.g., a segment may
> be assigned a relevance rating code ranging from 1-10, with 10 being the
> most relevant.
> (Col. 56, lines 49-54.)

Abecassis, however, does *not* disclose or suggest that the scores are 30   assigned *automatically*. Independent claim 1 requires *wherein the <u>digest server</u> converts the meta data into characteristic values, wherein the <u>digest server</u> calculates an importance level* for each of a plurality of content segments. Independent claim 5

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requires *importance level estimation means, for estimating an importance level* for each of a plurality of content segments. Independent claim 8 requires a meta data characteristic value database adapted to store characteristic values obtained from meta data included in video content; an *importance level calculator adapted to estimate an*

5   *importance level* for each of a plurality of scenes in the video content. Independent claim 14 requires *calculating a video importance level* for each scene based on a probability and based on a determined content score for the scene.

Regarding the Examiner's assertion that Abecassis teaches a video digest, Applicants note that Abecassis teaches that

10   a video map comprises the various segment combinations
that are defined. For example, a video map would provide the following
segment chains: 4112-5109.vertline.35351-38975.vertline.5175-6026,135-
4,6027; 4112-6026,135-3,6027; 4112-5205 vertline.35205-35350,135-
1,6027. This map would enable, for example, to automatically retrieve the
15   segment chain defined by frames 4112-5109, followed by segment defined
by frames 353514-38975, and followed by the segment defined by frames
5175-6026 in response to a viewer's preference for a graphic level of
violence (135-4) 639. It is noted that, for simplicity of presentation, in
each of the segment definitions above, the next logical segment is the
20   same, namely the segment beginning with frame 6027. As suggested
earlier, this need not be the case
(Col. 21, lines 32-45.)

Applicants also note that Abecassis teaches that

a viewer may achieve desired results by specifying in
25   addition to, or instead of the search rate, the percentage of the video and/or
each segment, and/or the amount of time as a minimum or maximum
given the length of the segment. For example, twenty percent of each
segment but not more than two minutes nor less than 30 seconds from
each segment. FIG. 14C illustrates a second instance 1434 in which, by
30   this method, a proportional amount from each segment is played subject to
the minimum and maximum specified amount for each segment. A
proportional amount played may also be subject to, e.g., factor in, the
relevance rating code previously detailed.
(Col. 57, lines 7-18.)

35   The video map disclosed by Abecassis is *not* a *video digest*, as defined in the context of the present invention (see, FIG. 9 and the associated text of the present disclosure). In addition, Abecassis teaches a type of *fast-forward operation*; a fast-

forward operation is also *not*, however, a *video digest*, as defined in the context of the present disclosure. Independent claim 12 requires reception means, for receiving, following the reception of the information and the time length, a *video digest* and meta data from a content provider. Independent claim 18 requires transmitting a user profile

5   that includes information for content desired by a user, information for a *video digest* time length for viewing and listening; and receiving a *video digest* comprising multiple scenes, sorted along a time axis, that constitute content that reflects the video digest time length, and meta data included in each of the scenes.

Thus, Abecassis does not disclose or suggest wherein the digest server

10 converts the meta data into characteristic values, wherein the digest server calculates an importance level for each of a plurality of content segments, as required by independent claim 1, does not disclose or suggest importance level estimation means, for estimating an importance level for each of a plurality of content segments, as required by independent claim 5, does not disclose or suggest a meta data characteristic value

15 database adapted to store characteristic values obtained from meta data included in video content; an importance level calculator adapted to estimate an importance level for each of a plurality of scenes in the video content, as required by independent claim 8, does not disclose or suggest reception means, for receiving, following the reception of the information and the time length, a video digest and meta data from a content provider, as

20 required by independent claim 12, does not disclose or suggest calculating a video importance level for each scene based on a probability and based on a determined content score for the scene, as required by independent claim 14, and does not disclose or suggest transmitting a user profile that includes information for content desired by a user, information for a video digest time length for viewing and listening; and receiving a

25 video digest comprising multiple scenes, sorted along a time axis, that constitute content that reflects the video digest time length, and meta data included in each of the scenes, as required by independent claim 18.

Dependent Claims 2-4, 6-7, 9-11, 13, 15-17 and 19

Dependent claims 2-4, 6-7, 9-11, 13, 15-17, and 19 were rejected under 35

30 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Abecassis.

Claims 2-4, 6-7, 9-11, 13, 15-17, and 19 are dependent on claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 14, and 18, respectively, and are therefore patentably distinguished over Abecassis because of their dependency from amended independent claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 14, and 18 for the reasons set forth above, as well as other elements these claims add in combination to

5   their base claim.

All of the pending claims, i.e., claims 1-19, are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to

10   contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

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